

MECHANICAL MEMORIES MAGAZINE

ISSUE 71

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Merry 
Christmas

Mechanical Memories Magazine

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Editorial

Hello, and welcome to the last magazine in 2012. As usual, it will probably be late, although I'm hoping you'll at least receive it before Christmas.

So, another year has flown by, and what a crap year it turned out to be! Remember the lovely weather we enjoyed back in March? Little were we to know then that that was as good as it was going to get. From April on, it was completely downhill. I remember being open one weekend at Brighton during July, thinking how surreal it was to see everyone wondering around in winter coats and scarves in the middle of what should have been summer.

And talking of Brighton, I bet you're all thinking, "He's going to start moaning now!" Well, no. It's nearly Christmas – the season of goodwill, so I shall save the moaning for another time (not that I have any goodwill to share with Brighton, or in particular, the mentally disabled lunatics who run the local authority). Suffice to say, unless a new site comes up in the next month or so, I shall probably still be there next year. Anyway, I shall go into more detail in the New Year, when I plan to publish an over-view of vintage penny arcades and their future.

However, 2012 wasn't all bad news – what about our auction? Yes, it would appear that once again the annual slotties' bash was a great success and enjoyed by all. Many thanks for all the emails and 'phone calls – it took so long answering them all, that it's made the magazine late! (OK, very poor excuse, I know). See centre pages for more on the auction.

So, with 2012 nearly over, Sharron and I wish you all a merry Christmas and a very happy New Year.

Until 2013, all the best

Jerry

Dreamland

MARGATE

Save Dreamland Update December 2012

We're delighted to pre-announce our forthcoming presentation of Tim Hunkin and his Under the Pier Show at Turner Contemporary in Margate as part of GEEK 2013.

Tim Hunkin is an engineer, cartoonist, writer and artist. He is best known for creating the Channel 4 television series, The Secret Life of Machines, in which he explains the workings and history of various household devices. For 15 years Tim produced the cartoon strip, The Rudiments of Wisdom, for the Observer newspaper. More recently Tim has been building interactive museum exhibits, curating and designing exhibitions and has designed numerous public engineering works, chiefly for entertainment.

GEEK (Games Expo East Kent) is the biggest retro gaming festival in the UK. We are very interested in telling people about our gaming heritage from its pre-home entertainment days when the only place to play your fave game was in an amusement arcade.

Surprisingly very little has been written about the history of amusement arcades despite their far flung success (I would of course recommend my own book, Pennies by the Sea from 2006!), so we've invited Tim to give a visual talk about the history of the amusement arcade and his ten year long obsession with creating his own amusement arcade of home-made machines on Southwold Pier in Suffolk.

Times, dates and venues will be posted on the GEEK2013 website at:
<http://www.geek2013.co.uk>

PROJECT UP-DATE

Last month Jacobs Engineers returned to the Dreamland site to complete a survey on the condition of the Scenic Railway and Japanese Knotweed was removed from underneath the structure.

Thanet District Council has now lodged a request for an expedited hearing of the CPO judicial review – if this is approved we may have a hearing date early next year.

The Urgent Works to the cinema building's concrete windows to the Hall by the Sea elevation completes this month with immediate plans to carry on with Urgent Works to the cinema's Compton organ.

AND FINALLY...

As another year draws to an end – I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our volunteers and partners who have worked with us to help deliver our events and activities throughout 2012 and, on behalf of The Dreamland Trust, I'd like to wish you all a very

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Please note that The Dreamland Trust office will be closed from 12 December 2012 until 2 January 2013. Project contact from 12 December will be Mike Nuttall at mike@dreamlandmargate.com.

Nick Laister

Nick Laister (Chairman, The Dreamland Trust)

Jan Leandro (Audience Development Officer)

www.dreamlandmargate.com

www.savedreamland.co.uk

Danter's Travels 1952-2012

by Steve Perry

60 years of fun fairs. A pictorial history of the transport of the Gloucestershire showmen. Over 250 black & white and colour photos from many sources, some not seen before.

ISBN Number: NA

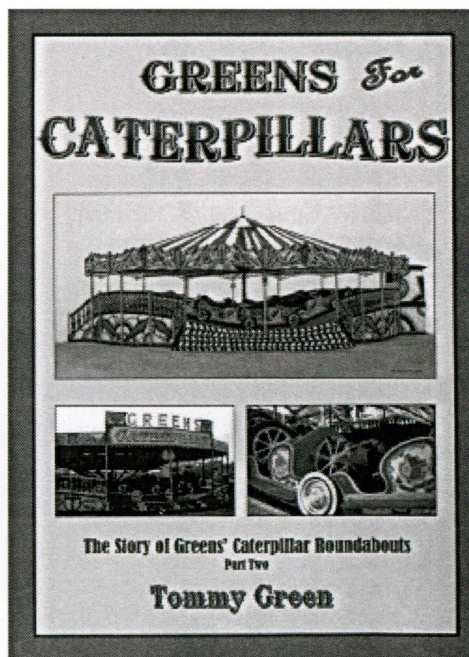
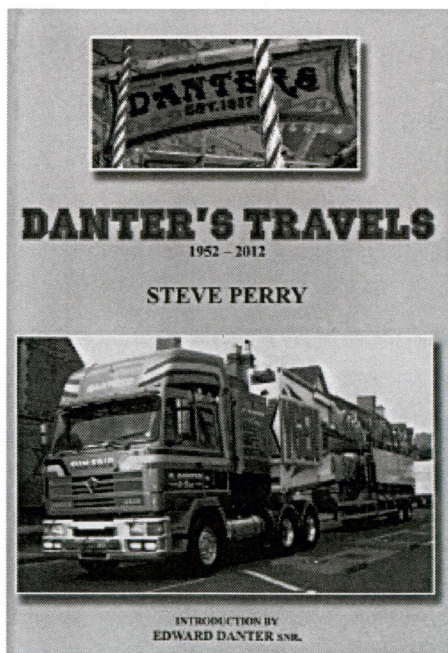
Format: Paperback

Number of Pages: 128

Publication Date: 2012

Publisher: S Perry

Our Price: £14.99



Greens for Caterpillars: The Story of Greens' Caterpillar Roundabouts, Part Two

by Tommy Green

The second book written by Tommy Green covers the period from 1950 until 1976 when the last Caterpillar ride was sold. As well as details of the rides and the fairs the rides attended, there are copious details of the vehicles used for transport, and the ever changing traffic legislation which took place throughout the period. There is also a section on the other rides travelled by Greens of Preston, and the other enterprises they operated in Lancashire and Glasgow.

ISBN Number: NA

Format: Paperback A4

Number of Pages: 156, over 150 photographs

Publication Date: 2012

Publisher: Kevin Scrivens and Tommy Green

RRP: £15.00

Our Price: **£14**

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R&W Allwin Restoration

By Mark Monroe

Having recently purchased a *Ruffler & Walker Fill Em Up* allwin at a bargain price, the restoration project started without a problem. The usual stripping of the workings, and in my case, removal of a horrible yellow paintjob from the entire allwin cabinet.

When I start any project I find the digital camera an essential part of my toolkit. I snap every angle of the outer casing and interior for later reference. I can't tell you how many times I've stripped down a machine only to forget where a certain 'slidey thingy with a nut on the end' came from, until I look back at the many close up photos on the computer and zoom in and see it hidden at the rear of a payout chute. Ahh, relief! No longer do I end up with those ever increasing spare bits thrown in an old Quality Street tin.

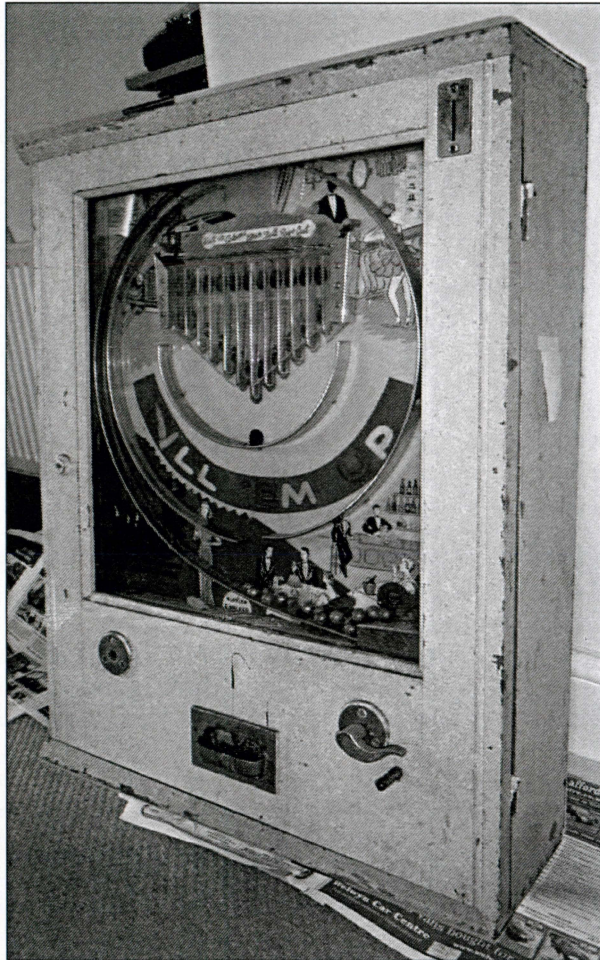
I enjoy the taking apart of any mechanical slot, as it's where you begin to see how everything bolts together and get an idea as to how the thing works. Always take care when breaking apart these machines. As a newcomer to the allwin type, no one told me that the glass front just slides in from the top, so while recently cleaning an **Eleven**ses the glass slid up and came down like a guillotine on my fingertips. Ouch! Even more embarrassing when your 9 year old son is watching his *clever* dad and you have to make up the usual excuse, "I knew that's what would happen!" while pretending it didn't hurt!

Once everything has been stripped from the case I begin the messy task of paint stripping. Modern chemicals make the job easier, but still messy! This I always do outdoors with plenty of newspaper placed upon the driveway. Always use newspaper, not for any other reason than while the chemicals are stripping the paint, you have something to read!

The paint stripper usually takes about 40 minutes to lift the paint, then I use a wallpaper scraper to scrape off the paint. I apply a second coat of stripper making sure it reaches all those creases and cracks in the wooden mouldings. I ditch the scraper for this final part and use fine wire wool to remove the last traces of paint. Gloves are essential unless you have warts that need removing, as some paint stripper chemicals start to burn the skin if left in contact too long, (now how would I know that)?

My allwin had two other complaints, apart from the yellow paint job now removed. The first was my wooden cabinet frame became the local restaurant for hungry woodworm. Many holes were scattered around the inside, so I used *Sikagard Woodworm Killer* treatment. Completely soaked the wood by liberally brushing the whole can on every piece of wood, there was no escape for those suckers. I left the wood to dry for a day or two. Woodworm cured, the last complaint was the top panel

of the cabinet was 'crumbly.' Now, I love crumbly when it's a digestive biscuit but not when it's my pride and joy allwin! I did consider replacing the wood but there's something not quite right when a classic piece of history is rebuilt using modern wood. Maybe it's just me but I recently saw an Elevenes for sale that looked beautiful but had its entire cabinet remade from new wood. I just felt that the character of the old Bryan's machine was lost. I like to feel the original wood that left the workshop all those years ago, and has sat in several amusement arcades, touched and played by thousands... well, you know what I mean. So to cut a long story short I decided I'd try and save the top panel.



I sanded gently the rough parts that were beyond repair and purchased a liquid by Ronseal called *Wet Rot Wood Hardener*. Apparently, this soaks into the soft crumbly wood and hardens it. I had nothing to lose, so I used the whole can just to make sure, brushed on coat after coat and left for a few days. The time and effort (and money) was well spent, as the top panel was solid. I sanded to shape, and despite losing approximately a sixtieth of an inch from the front lip of the panel it hardly notices.

Once the wood repairs were complete, the whole cabinet was sanded using 60 grit, then 120, followed by 500 for super smoothness. Forgot to mention the rear panel of the case was not original, and besides, was so badly damaged that I had no choice but to scrap it and make another panel.

The last step in restoring any cabinet is always the most satisfying: waxing and staining. In past projects I've used one of the Ronseal liquid stainers, but find this too harsh and soaks deep into the wood, so any change of mind on the colour is a no-no unless you want to sand off half an inch layer of wood! I now use the Briwax *Original Wax Polish*, which is natural beeswax with a hint of colour stain. For the R&W I used the Teak shade as I felt this closely matched the original. Having rubbed the wax in and left for a few minutes I began polishing off the excess to achieve a deep shine of natural wood grain. Job done.

However, one part of this restoration was to prove a challenge. My allwin was missing a major part, the payout knob. Having searched the internet for days and contacting other collectors for any spares, it dawned on me that there was little chance of finding the missing, essential component. The payout knob is of course a VIP (very important part)!

Having looked at several photos of the missing knob, I made the decision to make one. I considered using wood as I have fairly good woodworking skills and thought this would be the easier option but after further investigation I felt that using even hardwood it wouldn't have the strength to withstand the rigorous handling it would no doubt receive from players. So I started to look at making the item from metal. With absolutely no skills or experience of metalwork I decided very early on that purchasing a solid block of metal, and filing, cutting and drilling to shape was a definite no go.

I began researching the internet on the possibility of casting the piece from liquid metal. Unfortunately, all home metal casting involved an expensive furnace that had to reach very high temperatures to melt most metals to liquid form, also the dangers involved scared me off the idea.

I then remembered a friend of mine who made chess pieces as a hobby by pouring metal into moulds, something he did at home. So a quick phone call was made to my friend and Eureka, he tells me about *Prince August* (yes, I asked him the same question, but it's nothing to do with Royalty)! It's a metal that is specially made for hobbyists because it melts at a lower temperature than other metals. In fact, a standard home cooker hob provides enough heat.

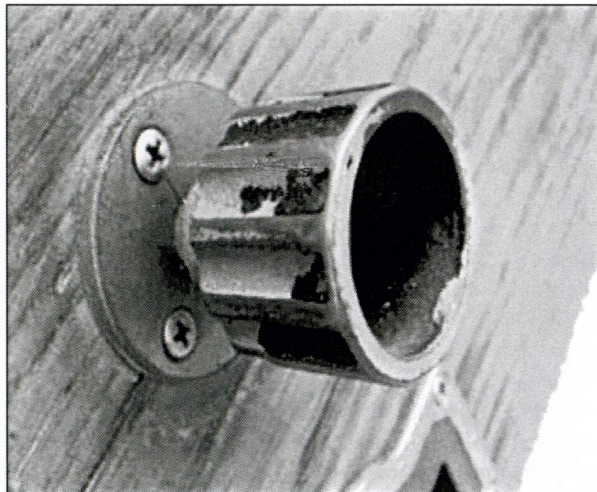
So I gathered together all the materials required: Johnson's Baby Powder, a tin of Heinz Spaghetti (bear with me on this...), pieces of wood and Prince August Metal. The wood was for the mould; however, searching the internet I couldn't find anyone

using wood as a mould which made me wonder if there was a reason why. Maybe it couldn't take the sheer heat of molten metal being poured into it and would possibly burst into flames. The common method of casting metal is to use a form of wet sand that has an original object pushed into it forming the mould. But as I didn't have the original knob and the sand method looked like a lot of messing around, and time consuming, I opted to take a chance with my wooden method.

I managed to source the measurements for the original knob from other collectors and owners of the Ruffler & Walker allwin range, from which I made a few rough sketches. I then proceeded to cut out the wooden mould. The cutting was done using standard drill bits to drill three different diameter holes. The top widest would be for the handle (42mm dia x 30mm depth), middle neck (12mm dia x 10mm depth), and the lower neck (10mm dia x 5mm depth). This lower and middle neck would eventually be drilled to allow a steel spindle to be inserted.

At this point I imagined having the tedious task of hunting down the correct size spindle that could slide perfectly through the hole in the chromed flange on the front of the allwin cabinet. However, as luck would have it, my first tool draw I opened had an old handle from a broken G clamp, and yes would you believe it, it was the exact diameter required. If only I was as lucky with the Lottery!

The inner walls of the top hole would need to be filed to create the flutes around the finished knob. I made the mould in two parts with wooden dowels as guides to ensure correct alignment when put together. Once cut to shape, both parts were sanded finely to smooth out any nasty scratches on the wood, although I wasn't too worried about the surface of the finished knob being rough (most old mouldings appear crude anyway). It was more to ensure the casting would come out of the mould easily.



The distinctive payout knob that can be found on all R&W allwins.

I was happy with the wooden mould so preceded to the casting stage. First I sprinkled a small amount of Talcum powder on to the surfaces (now you know why I needed it) as I'd read that this is a tip professional casters do to help avoid the metal sticking to the sides of the mould. I used a fine paintbrush to 'dust' the talc on all inside surfaces. The two halves were then clamped together, but I guess strong elastic bands would suffice. Pouring the liquid metal into the wooden mould at this stage would result in a solid casting; however, this one needed a hollow. I guess I could have drilled it out after but decided to make a small wooden dowel and this I would suspend over the top opening of the mould to create the hollowed out centre. (I actually sawed the top off my broom handle, as its diameter was just right)!

Now came time to begin heating the metal, but first open my can of spaghetti and discard content. Yep that's right, I need something that can accommodate the molten metal (using your best saucepan is not a good idea)!

Dropping the solid chunks of metal into the can and applying the heat only took about two minutes to get to melting point. If I'm honest, I wasn't too sure if the can would melt too... But worry not, as I read on the internet that tin has a much higher melting temperature than the casting metal I was using. Phew! Once the metal was pure liquid, I adorned the safety gloves I'd purchased earlier that day along with my protective glasses, as hot metal can sometimes spit and splash. I forgot to mention that I did heat the wooden mould briefly in the oven prior to clamping together to ensure there was no moisture in it otherwise splashes from hot pouring metal can occur.

Once the metal was runny I carefully poured it into the top of the mould. It stays liquid for about 30 – 40 seconds, so gently tap the side of the mould to ensure any trapped air is released and all crevasses are filled throughout the mould. Leave to stand for approximately 20 minutes until its warm to the touch. The wood will be very hot for a while, but one of my worries about the wood burning was unjust, as the liquid metal did not reach a high enough temperature to cause damage to the wood.

The real thrill of casting is the breaking of the mould to release your engineering masterpiece! It may have been nice to reuse the mould but unfortunately the main body of the casting would not release itself from the upper part of the mould. So much for the talc! So with no other option, I used a chisel to carefully tap the mould and split it apart to reveal my first ever metal casting.

When the casting was cool enough to hold, I filed the surface to remove the rough spots and also to do a final bit of shaping. The metal is still soft so can be filed and sanded very easily. As the metal was filed it revealed a gorgeous shine almost chrome like. Once all shaped and smoothed, I needed to drill out a hole to take the spindle, making sure that I drilled dead centre and to the correct depth. I had already found a piece of steel rod as mentioned earlier that was a perfect fit through the Chromed flange fixed on the front of the R&W case.

I cut the rod to length and pushed tightly into the hole I had drilled in the knob. I considered gluing the rod to stop it from slipping; it's my guess this payout knob gets twisted many times through its lifetime, sometimes very aggressively by some people. So I decided to drill a small hole through the middle neck of the knob and the steel rod

and insert a small pin (nail!) just to be sure there would be no chance of the knob slipping on the spindle. Like all projects that involve effort, it's worrying when doing minor things such as drilling holes and tapping nails at this late stage, as one slip or mistake and the whole thing is ruined! Luckily I took my time over this part and all went well.

To finish, I lightly rubbed the whole thing over with fine steel wool and coated with lacquer to protect the shine, but also to avoid the deposit of metal upon the players sweaty hands. This type of model maker's casting metal is like handling old coins for a while and leaves your hands grubby! The Prince August metal is paintable, which would not require the clear lacquer coat as protection.

Once the part was in place on my Fill Em Up allwin, the whole effort of design, build and casting was well worth it. I wouldn't hesitate at casting again should I find myself in that position of unable to obtain rare parts. However, some of the steps I did on this project I'd probably do a different way. The mould probably took the longest, not to make but to design. I had no end of papers with scribbles on thinking out the best way to create a mould whereby the metal can be poured and reach all areas.

The Prince August Hobby Metal is a great product but I'm not convinced it'll be hard wearing enough for a heavily loaded part of a one-armed bandit. It may begin to rub away, but for general parts that are impossible to find, it may save your day. Good Luck!

Mark Monroe



The new knob, all bright and shiny, now fitted to Mark's Fill em Up.

Coventry 2012

So, another auction over, and once again it would appear that we all had an enjoyable day. Perhaps I should say weekend, as for many this has become the slotties' social event of the year, with an ever-increasing number of us making a weekend of it.

Sharron and I (along with many others) stayed at the Travelodge in central Coventry, which was certainly an experience. The first problem was finding it! Being the old dinosaur that I am, I haven't yet dragged myself into the 20th century and embraced the use of this new-fangled Satellite Navigation nonsense. I absolutely refuse to – what exactly is wrong with a map? Anyway, to cut a long story short, I didn't have a local map and the AA directions I'd downloaded from the interweb were total rubbish.....so we used the Satnav on Sharron's phone. After doing an extended sightseeing tour, with many landmarks becoming increasingly familiar, having passed them half a dozen times, it was clear that the technological wizardry wasn't working!

In the end, I parked the van and we both started to walk. With the assistance of a local cab driver, who pointed us in the right direction, it became clear why the nice lady directing us from Sharron's phone had been sending us round and round in circles. The road we wanted, which would have taken us straight to the hotel, was 'buses only'. Now, the question remains: if the Satnav knew it was buses only (which it clearly did), why did it not find us an alternative route?..... Next time, I'm buying a map!

Having found the hotel (and I use the term 'hotel' very loosely), the next job was to find the van! I left Sharron in the bar and enlisted the help of Kevin, our head of security. We set off on foot in the general direction of the car park where I had left the van, but unfortunately, we somehow managed to get lost (seemed like this was becoming a habit). Anyway, we found it eventually and headed back to the hotel. It was fortunate that Kevin's sense of direction was a lot better than the nice lady in Sharron's phone.

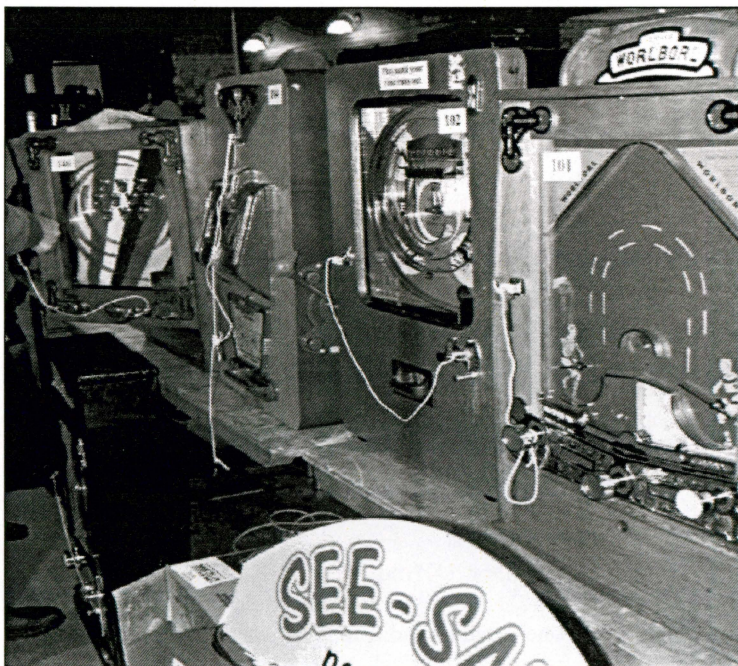
Having ascertained that the hotel was even more basic than we'd expected; the rooms offering an appearance of what one might expect to find at a Young Offenders Institution, a crowd of us set off to eat at a local restaurant, the delights of which we first sampled last year. After a very enjoyable meal, we headed back to the hotel with a view to sampling some of the wares available from the bar. As I needed to be at the venue by 8.00 the following morning, I planned to be Captain Sensible that evening and just have a couple of pints. Well, having said goodnight to the light-weights, Sharron and I plus a few others finally turned-in at 1.30 in the morning.....I never was good at 'sensible'. Fortunately, we managed to get a good night's sleep – I'm not sure whether it was the comfortable bed or the fifteen pints of lager!

So, how was the auction? Well, having taken up a page of waffle, there's not much room left for any sort of report. To be honest, there's not much to say really. Most of you were there, and those that weren't, make sure you are next year – you missed a great day.

As usual, many thanks to those who helped on the day: Our auctioneers, Kevin and Steve, who did sterling work as ever; Kevin, our head of security, who also did sterling stuff; Doff for her dedicated charge of the laptop, ensuring we got all the numbers right, and to all those who helped us set up early in the day. Thanks also to Jeremy's mate (whose name escapes me) for his assistance with portering – it's the second year running we've missed Mr Hooper; I do hope he makes it next year. And of course, thanks to all the vendors for a great selection of machines and associated lots, without whom of course, we wouldn't have an auction.

And finally, thanks to you all for making it another great day. These events are run for the benefit of the whole slottie community, and so long as you continue to support them, we'll continue to run them.

Jerry



Some of the prices realised at the 2012 auction. As usual, the full list will be available to view (with pictures) in the ARENA on the pennymachines site.

Lot	Description	Price
19	Miniature 'hand cranked' Haunted Churchyard working model.	90
21	Strength gripper on old penny play, in nice condition.	180
23	'Amazing Electric Allwin' in good working order, on 5p play.	140
26	Rare BMCo Target Shooter wall machine, on old penny play.	360
27	Allwin De-Luxe, in good working order, on old penny play.	260
28	Bell Fruit Cascade De-Luxe, in good working order, on 1p play.	180
55	Aristocrat Arcadian one-armed bandit, on 1p play. In good working order, with keys.	100
56	Mel-Fruit Beromat type fruit machine, on 1p play.	110
59	Original 1930s BMCo 'Favourite' allwin, in lovely condition.	390
60	Bryans Bullion on 1p play.	240
61	'Double Up' electro-mechanical wall machine.	130
66	1950s Thomas Bergman electric wall machine,	250
68	Cast iron Gold Changer (no key, locked).	210
79	Copy of Dealings of Peter Whales and Oliver 1933 – 1939.	110
86	Floor-standing Snap machine, by Streets (1972). GWO on 5p play.	310
88	Monkey Racer, 1950s arcade machine. Lovely artwork.	1650
90	Cash till, old brass type. As seen.	100
93	Thomas the Tank Engine pusher, working on 1d play.	180
94	Tuck Shop pinball, by Shields. Fully restored.	305
97	Rotomat, in good condition, on 20p play.	140
98	Bryans Elevenes allwin, on 1d play. Nice example.	480
100	Bryans Pilwin allwin, on old penny play.	740
101	Bryans Worlborl, in streamline case, on old penny play.	1375
102	Time Limit allwin, working on old penny play.	350
104	Rotina, German wall bandit on old penny play.	100
120	Jennings Club Chief one-armed bandit, on 6d play.	640
121	Mils Hi-Top one-armed bandit, on 6d play.	350
123	Mills Hi-Top one-armed bandit, on 6d play.	275
124	Mills Hi-Top one-armed bandit, on 6d play.	280
126	Mini Sega, on 6d play.	130
127	Mini Sega, on 6d play.	150
128	Jennings Governor mech. on 1/- (old 5p).	210
129	Mills mech. on 6d.	150
130	Jennings Governor one-armed bandit, in good working order.	500
137	Reproduction Bryans stripy backflash, on heavy gauge plastic.	25

146	Bryans 10 Cup allwin, working on 1d play, with key.	860
147	Fortune teller, working on 1d play.	150
148	BMCo..Lucky Star allwin, on 1d play.	450
149	Ruffler & Walker Hat Trick allwin, on 1d play.	350
150	Oliver Whales Strike Em Giant allwin, working on 1d play.	550
151	Reproduction 'The Smithy' wall machine, on old penny play.	240
152	'Rotina' German wall machine, on 1d play. Needs restoring.	70
153	'Tip Top' German wall machine, on 1d play. Good working order.	60
154	Win a Cig. allwin, with top flash. Good working order, on 1d play.	235
156	Bryans All Sport, on old penny play.	800
157	Beach Nut vending machine.	25
164	Illuminated 'Pirate' arcade sign.	60
165	Illuminated 'Bandito' arcade sign.	65
166	Illuminated 'King' arcade sign.	60
167	Large fruit machine top sign, superb artwork.	110
169	Man-size hand painted Clown promo. board.	60
174	Top flash for a BMCo wall machine.	35
175	Top flash for a BMCo allwin, with original brackets.	55
176	Neon Jackpot sign.	50
177	BMCo Cresta Run allwin, on old penny play.	400
179	Allwin Reserve Ball, on old penny play.	370
180	R&W Win a Nestles Choc. Bar allwin, on 1d play.	420
182	Parkers Carousel allwin, on old penny play.	510
183	Parkers Eleven Wins allwin, on old penny play.	660
184	Rare Stevenson & Lovett Sky Jump wall machine.	675
185	Beromat one-armed bandit, on old penny play.	230
186	Master Football game, in very good condition, on 1d play.	330
187	1940 Groetchen Sparks cigarette, on 1d play. Mostly restored. Includes some tokens.	80
188	Testo Reaction Meter, on 6d play. Restored, in very good condition.	70
191	Bradley Challenger wall machine.	260
192	Bryans Elevenses allwin, in very clean condition.	475
223	Dutchess MKIII one-armed bandit, on old penny play.	80
224	Sega Hi-Top one-armed bandit, with proper escalator and Jackpot.	325
226	1940s Buckley Criss Cross one-armed bandit, on 6d play.	350
227	Mills Extraordinary on 1D coin.	375
228	Mills War Eagle on 3D coin.	420
229	Mills Mini Sega on 6D coin.	140
230	Jennings Governor Tic Tac Toe - 2 pulls for 5p (or Shilling).	525
232	Aristocrat Starlite one-armed bandit, on 5p play.	110
233	Sega Continental one-armed bandit, on 6d play.	76
234	Jubilee one-armed bandit, with Aristocrat mech.	

Mablethorpe Circa 1965

By Robert Rowland

Mablethorpe in the '60s, was a great place for me
Oh what a thrill to come and live by the sea.
The warm summer evenings, relaxed on the beach
And the fuzz was something you rubbed off a peach.
The Beatles, the Hollies, Cliff Richard, big O
Were on jukebox selections wherever you'd go.
Then up to the fairground to ride on the whip
A few spins on that gave your stomach some gyp.
The whole town was buzzing, the place was alive
Each day was like this, from nine until five.

My first stop is Funland, to play Cromptons Gold Cup
Any one of five horses had a chance to come up.
The wins ranged from two, to a jackpot of ten
I spent hours on that machine, until moved on by Len.
Finding liquorice torpedoes in the trays of the crane
I won't need to visit a sweet shop again.
Walking through Funland, trying to avoid Mary
Boy if she grabbed you, it got pretty scary.
Marched into the office with a rollicking to come
Stripped of your cash, then sent home to mum.

Marine Pastimes had Pilwins, Parkers and Mills
Playing on those really tested your skills.
You could have your own shoot-out by challenging Top Gun
Or see the Miser's last moment, it was all just good fun.
Rock-Ola Jigsaws, Tuck Shops as well
That Laughing Sailor made me laugh like hell.
Inserting a sixpence, and off you would go
Keep to the road but don't go too slow.
Yes, I'm taking my own Road Test
Take it from me, those days were the best.

My next stop is Bingoland, it looks busy today
There's a Bingolett in there, that I like to play.
Two fours and a two does not make a win
I'm beginning to wish I'd never come in!
The bingo is full, not a spare seat to be seen
My mate's just won jackpot on another machine.
Oh no! Here comes Bumble, heading my way
"Don't come back for the rest of the day".
Thrown out again and I've done nothing wrong
He always picks on kids who aren't big and strong.

Let's cross the road and go into Queens
With my Pennies all jangling inside my jeans.
I've just won a six on the Streets Wheel-em-In
I'm sure that my penny was clearly just in.
But it's bad luck for me because it hasn't paid out
I will have to give the key man a shout.
He doesn't believe me, he thinks that I lied
I didn't get paid and I'm sure that I cried.
I suppose at the time I was only aged ten
But it seemed such a big deal, way back then.

Now on to the Empire, which was owned by Fred
"Keep off that Wheel of Fortune" his attendant said.
So I moved to my left and played Derby Day
Horse five came in, and twelve pennies my way.
That didn't go down well with the staff that were there
It wasn't their money, so why should they care?
I then gave Moonraker a gentle tap with my knee
Scooped up more pennies, then home for my tea.
I hope you enjoyed my trip back in time
And I'm pleased to report, it was all done in rhyme.

Robert Rowland

Letters to the Editor

Dear Jerry

Just a short note to say thanks for a wonderful day at the auction, which I couldn't make last year, so it was my first time. I would say that I was most impressed with the organisation which made it very smooth running and a very enjoyable day. The hall where it was held was ideal and definitely ticked all the boxes – good car park, good food and a bar! Can't wait till next year. What date will it be?

Regards

Tony Miller

Dear Tony

Glad you enjoyed the day and it's good to hear that you will be coming next year! As for the date, the event is normally held on the last Sunday in November, although there is a possibility we may make it a week later next year, which would be the first Sunday in December. I'll try to confirm the date early in the New Year, but in the meantime, I suggest you pencil-in both dates in your 2013 diary (that goes for everyone else too)!

Jerry

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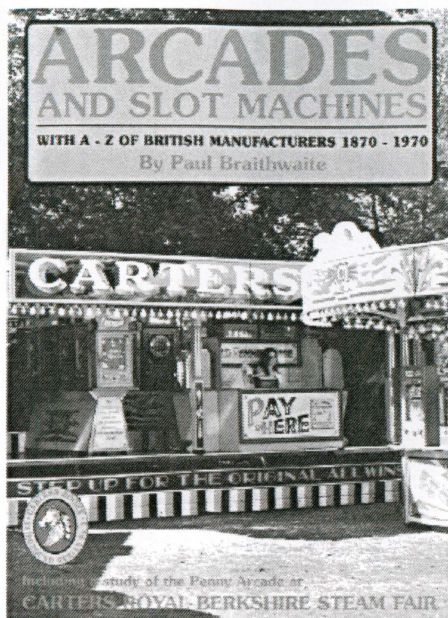
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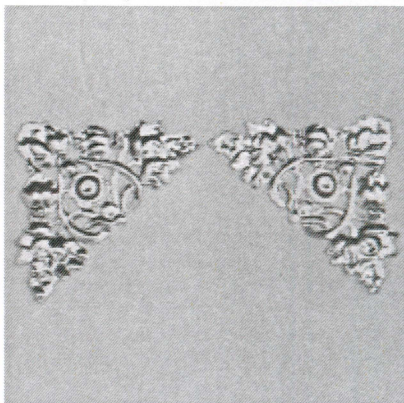
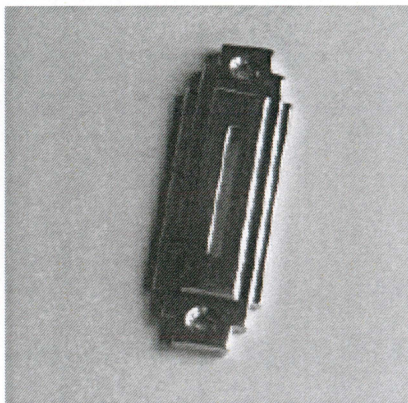
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